

Pass Christian Area
1699 1999



Colonization Tricentennial
Committee

Tricentennial News

PASS CHRISTIAN, MS

The

Tricentennial

Volume 1, Issue 10

August 12, 1998

PLAUDITS TO VAL!

Valerie Isabelle was named Pass Christian's Outstanding Employee by the Rotary Club at their Installation Banquet. She was honored with a plaque for her five years of service as a dedicated and helpful employee as Administrative Assistant for Mayor Billy McDonald and former mayor, Ted Lawyer. Val, born in Bay St. Louis, attended St. Rose DeLima for 11 years until it closed and she then was graduated from Bay High. She gained her secretarial and administrative skills by way of on-the-job training as a part-time secretary in the Bay's Mayor's office, a post office in Detroit, and with Mississippi Power.

She became most adroit when she was employed at St. Augustine's Seminary where she remained for more than 16 years until she decided on seeking a new position closer to her new home in Pass Christian. She filled the vacancy of Administrative Assistant following an interview by then Mayor Ted Lawyer. Although not a Civil Service slot, she was retained by incoming Mayor Billy McDonald because of the merit of her skill and knowledge.

When asked what she liked best about her job, she responded, "It's like a clearing house for everything that happens in the Pass. When people don't know who to call to solve their problems, it lands on my desk. From there, I direct them to the right person or department."

Nettle's Studio

Brian Nettles, a graduate from University of Southern Mississippi and former ceramics instructor, has recently installed all the tools of his trade at his display studio and gallery at the corner of Davis Avenue and Handy Street. One of his well-known sculptured objects is the "1997 Summer Olympics."

The affable young man extends a ready smile in demonstrating his works and welcoming new patrons to his studio showcase of art-works.



A new exhibit donation has been presented to the Tricentennial Committee by Sculptor Brian Nettles. One of his first productions at his new location is the recent replica of the landmark stone marker heralding d'Iberville's settling on the Gulf Coast at "Old Biloxi". The historic marker was unearthed near Fort Maurepas in Ocean Springs sometime in the 1930s, and is now on display at the Cabildo in New Orleans. It is believed that this replica is the first reproduction of its kind and is currently exhibited at the Pass Library. This art piece will become part of the permanent Tricentennial exhibit which will be displayed at different locations throughout greater Pass Christian.

Pellerin's Ownership

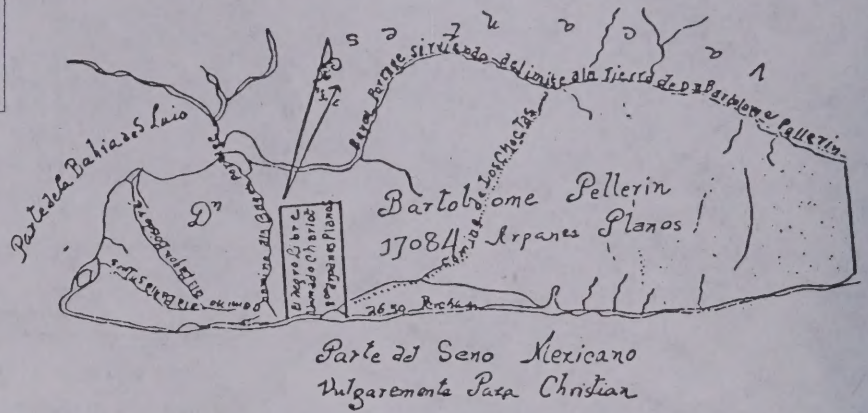
by Gloria Moran (4th in a series)

This map was prepared for Bartholome Pellerin, a Spanish Lieutenant who was granted the entire peninsula measuring 17,084 arpents, or about 15,500 acres of Pass Christian in 1809. The measurements and descriptions on this map are practically the same as those of

the June 1781 grant to Francois Carriere of this same land, with the exception that the land of the Free Negro Charlot was not excluded from the 1781 grant to Carriere. (Charlot, or Charles Asmar(d), had been freed and was given 800 arpents, or about 720 acres by his mistress, Widow Asmar, on November 5, 1799. The translation of some of the landmarks are: *Camino* means road. The water bodies of Bay St. Louis, Bayou Boisdore, and Bayou Portage are indicated. The *Road to Bayou Portage* is the same as today's Henderson Avenue. And the *Camino de los Choctaws* starts near the coastline and runs east and north to connect about midway of where Menge Avenue runs today.

In accomplishing this survey, the engineer de Finiels stated that he had gone to Pass Christian and that he had cited two old inhabitants of that place, namely Jean Baptiste Nicaise and Pierre Morin, in order that they might inform him of the boundaries of the land which had belonged to Widow Asmar, afterwards Mrs. Francois Carriere, and that the two old inhabitants appeared before Philippe Saucier of Pass Christian, and that the boundaries were Bayou Boisdore fronting on the Bay St. Louis at the point at which the Bayou Boisdore entrance terminates, and along the beach as far as Bear Point (middle of downtown Long Beach) and adjoined the Claude Christian Ladner grant on the east.

In other words, all this means is that Francois Carriere, after his wife had occupied the land since about 1775, was, in 1781, granted all of Pass Christian and Henderson Point, and that Bartholome Pellerin, in 1809 was granted (approximately) the same land.



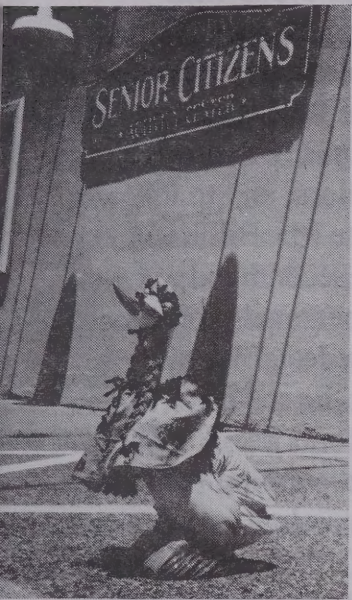
P.C.H.S. OPEN -- 3-Days-a-Week

Tues: 10 a.m. to noon & 1-3 p.m.; Wed: 10a.m. to noon; Thurs: 10 a.m. to noon & 1-3 p.m. Volunteers are: Adele Bielenberg, Gerry Bishop, Bill and Betty Carlin, Julia Cerra, Dottie Cooper, Jean Moreland, Otis Trepagnier, and Mary Catherine Ward. More volunteers are urged.

Cook Book is getting Hot-Hot-Hot!

More recipes are coming in as entries and entres will soon be typed into computer format. Your favorite delight can only be posted if you send it in. Add a little color by submitting a little anecdote about why its your favorite.

Senior Citizen Center Helpers



As you can tell about this photo, its everything to quack about! This newsletter has been folded and labled by one of the volunteers from the Senior Citizen's Center on Second Street. Director Mae Parker invites everyone to drop by, visit, and see the exciting *Class & Craft* activities which go on from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays.

We gratefully thank the following: Floyd Brune, Dot Copeland, Gladys DeSantis, Ceil Dedeaux, Pearl

Harshbarger, Vida Lea Ladner, Lynn Malley, Claire Miller, Mae Parker, Stan Stockton, Frances Talley, and Evlyn Yeager.

Black Musicians of the Pass

Captain John Handy was known as the "Jazz King". Following his death was the first *Jazz Funeral* in Mississippi, and in his honor, the name change of Third Street to Handy Street where his family home is still located.

Joe Jackson, another musician to tour the world with other entertainers, was a famous piano player.

Jeanette Salvant Kimball was pianist for the "Papa" Celestin Band of local and New Orleans fame.

Eddie Watson and his brothers, Harry, Charles "Blue", and Henry "Gator", formed the "Watson Brothers" and were well known local musicians who played at the Miramar Hotel, the Yacht Club and other night spots.

"Cadillac" Watson played several instruments and was promoter for a number of Jazz Greats who made the International circuit.

ST. PAUL CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION ADOPTS TRICENTENNIAL THEME

Robin Rafferty, chairman of the *St. Paul Carnival Association*, reported at the June Board of Directors' meeting that all participating float sponsors have been asked to adopt the Tricentennial Theme with an emphasis on the Colonization Period of the French, English, and Spanish. The Mardi Gras parade will kick-off the year-long events for the 1999 Tricentennial celebrations.

Historians Committee Town Hall style meetings

Eaton Lang, Chairman of the Historians Committee gave a practice session of what is to be expected in a series of programs that are being developed by the Historians Committee. The preview was given to the *Friends of the Library* who meet every Friday in the Library Conference Room at 10 a.m. The topic was "Transportation Through the Years in the Pass". Everything from rabbit trails to railroading was discussed. The only thing left out was the first airplane landing in the Pass when there was no airstrip. You will have to attend one of the scheduled program events to find out how the airplane was able to get to its final destination. The Town Hall-styled programs allow for questions and "Buttinskees" at the end of each interesting presentation. Depending on attendance, the forums will be held during different times of the day as well as at different locations such as City Hall, etc. Eaton can be contacted at 452-4227.

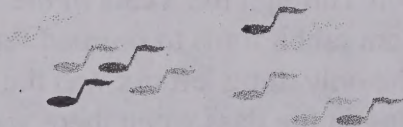
Collage

A Pass Christian Celebration

October plans for the exciting Collage weekend have been in the offing for the past several months. A trio of fall events, familiar to Pass Christians, have combined their schedules to effect a gala weekend for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 16-17.

The sponsors have arranged a full three-ring circus of excitement which will take place during those three days featuring *Toast of the Coast*, *Celebrate The Gulf*, and *Celebrate The Arts*. Entertainment and activities will be centered at various locations, including some of the beautiful historic homes, the Pass Harbor, the Yacht Club, and Memorial Park. Following a special buffet, the musicians will lead a Jazzy second-line in strutting to the Downtown Open House. Reservations are required for some functions, call 452-2140 for further information.

(Malee Hearin, Publicity Director).



YES! SIGN ME UP! LET'S ALL KEEP DAYTON BUSY! ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR \$15 OR MORE, FOR A TWO-YEAR TRICENTENNIAL SUBSCRIPTION AND MEMBERSHIP.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

(Mail to TriCentennial/POB #354, P.C. MS, 39571)

Boy Scouts Troop #316

The Pass Christian Scout Troop will soon be honoring its newest Eagle Scout, Morris Hamilton. Part of his completion exercises was to clear the debris from the Pass Christian Nature Trail, replace the old signs with new ones which describe the local flora, and to install a bench in honor of the late Mr. Bill Kidd.

The Boy Scout Hut at Second and Fleitas was one of Bill Kidd's personal projects; and that was to refurbish and redesign its interior to maximum utilization by the scouts. The current troop leadership and scouts have sprayed for termites, completed painting the inside walls, and have replaced window panes and the attic ladder.

Summer at Camp Tiak was helped out by new staff volunteer, Maurice Marshall, who performed first aid administrations for minor abrasions and camped out with the boys. He summed up the five-week camping trip as heartwarming and hoped that new scouts and volunteers will participate in the next Camp Tiak event.

Membership to Boy Scout Troop #316 is open to all boys aged 12-17 years. Those who are interested should meet at the Boy Scout Hut on Monday evenings between 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

A special viewing of the new Scout Trailer will be celebrated with Mayor Billy McDonald on Friday, August 28th at 5 p.m. at "The Hut."

EDITORIAL STAFF

Jayne Condra	452-4224
Dan Ellis	452-3138
Dayton Robinson	452-4543

POB 354, P.C., MS, 39571

GULFPORT CENTENNIAL

Gulfport was incorporated on July 28, 1898. Of significance is the "*Gulfport Museum*", which is a precursor to the permanent museum that is planned for the year 2000. Coastians are invited to see the renovated train depot in downtown Gulfport which is temporarily filled with memorabilia and photos depicting the century-long history of Gulfport's growth in becoming the second largest city in Mississippi.

One of the interesting aspects of Gulfport's rise, were some of the early developers who included a number of Pass Christianians, such as: Finley B. Hewes, its first Mayor; John Lang, undertaker and promoter; Frederick Bienenberg, furniture; George Northrop, mercantile stores; and John Simpson and others. Also with origins in the Pass area, from DeLisle, was one of the town's first aldermen, Oscar T. Cassibry whose grandson is former Senator Nap Cassibry. Another, was Roderick McIntosh, an 1880s Pass businessman, who was a forebear of former Gulfport Mayor Leroy Urie.

Wilson at the Pass

President Woodrow Wilson arrived at the Pass on Christmas Day 1912 to spend a winter vacation. Mayor A. P. Saucier and his family met the President at the train. It had rained for several days and water was yet standing in the streets.

"Some rain you had, Mr. Mayor," remarked Wilson.

"Aw, we jes cleaned up the place for you, Mr. President," quipped Mayor Saucier.

The President was treated to a heaping dish of his favorite ice cream at Wittmann's Store located at Davis and Second Streets.

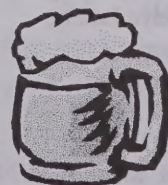
SALOONS, BARS, AND CAFÉS OF THE PASS

So far the earliest recorded saloon that has been found while deed digging at the Harrison County Vault was a billiard hall and bar called *The Merchant's Exchange*. It was operated by Jonathan Montgomery perhaps as early as the late 1840s. He sold the business, furnishings, and liquor to John Rody. The lease was with Calvin Bradley, one of the several heirs to the Charles Asmard tract. Bradley's inheritance was the property along the east side of Market Avenue, ranging from the Gulf to the Bayou Portage marshes.

Speaking of restaurants and entertainment spots, a favorite name was the *Plantation Cafe*, which was used at least five times; in '56, '61, '64, '69, and '88 (the last one on Scenic Drive closed in 1995).

Existing on the fringe of the City, at Holiday Avenue and Beach Boulevard, is the *Beachcomber*. That site was first opened as the *Sunrise* in the 1930s, by George and Merle Ladner. Even though two hurricanes destroyed it, in '47 and '69, it was rebuilt and called the Waterfront, later the Riviera, and once again as the Sunrise. It also operated under other names such as: C.Y. Thompson's, Bumstead's, Saigon, Loomis's, and the Emerald Garden.

Billy Bourdin and associates are culling and recalling all the booze and dining places that have existed in the Pass. Everyone is challenged to send in their remembrances, or take it to Billy.



Tricentennial Committee Membership Roster

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 Dorothy P. Bell
 Emanuel V. Benjamin
 Adele Bielenberg
 Geraldine Bishop
 Cornelia Boudreaux
 Dorothy Ewing Brown
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Businesses

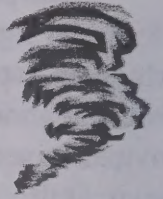
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City of Pass Christian
 Friends of the Library
 Henderson Pt/PC Isles Asso.
 P.C. Garden Club
 P.C. High School Alumni Asso.
 P.C. Historical Society
 Rotary Club of Pass Christian
 Timber Ridge Property Owners

Hurricane

Storm clouds gather in the distant sky,
 Rolling swiftly toward the shore.
 Winds rise up to stoke the waves
 And relentless rain begins to pour.



Thunder now rolls o'er the land,
 As lightning streaks the sky.
 Seagulls hasten to their nests
 As the storm grows nigh.

Rapacious winds impel each wave
 To pound upon the sand.
 The boiling sea begins to rise
 And threatens to engulf the land.



Nature's rage now manifest
 Against all who cross her path.
 No mercy does she render
 Till all have felt her wrath.

How peaceful comes the dawn!
 How deceptively serene!
 How beautiful the sunrise
 On a heart-rending scene!

A town demolished, torn apart,
 Crushed as if by giant hand.
 Precious lives now are lost,
 Shattered dreams upon the sand.



But brave hearts band together,
 Though they're grieving still.
 Though all around has crumbled,
 Their spirits never will.

by Jessie H.

Timber Ridge

by Dan Ellis

In 1946, Wallace Walker of New Orleans bought the defunct corporation along with its assets through a holding company known as Sunset Realty. He had the land resurveyed, modified the plats, and subdivided Henderson Point into two legal subdivisions called Henderson Point Heights and Pass Christian Isles. Historic Henderson Point maintained its original area, developing as a residential and commercial area with gambling and entertainment establishments.

A few years later, Walker sold off the Timber Ridge property to a development combine named New South Corporation, which was headed by Jamar Adcock of Monroe, Louisiana.

The Pass Christian Isles Golf Club was incorporated in 1952 and completed in 1953, the same year that the Henderson Point - Pass Christian Isles Civic Association was organized.

Timber Ridge was developed slowly with vigorous land sales, but with scant residential construction during the early 60s.

After Hurricane Camille, sales promotions resulted in Pete Fountain cutting T.V. commercials, a grand celebration was held at Treasure Cove marina for the driving of pilings for an anticipated yacht club, and a parachutist jumped from a plane to land at the point of Bayou Boisdoré (Malini).

At one point, the development company had to change the name to "*Bay Colony*" because of the bitter image left with the general public. The sales office

was located at the head of the main entranceway, until it was burned down. Some people claim that it burned twice in one night. The transfer of assets was bestowed upon the Property Owners Association served up with a Silver Tray which was presented to then POA president, Dan D'Antoni. Ellie D'Antoni was responsible for having the name changed back to Timber Ridge after Hurricane Elena destroyed the old *Bay Colony* sign.

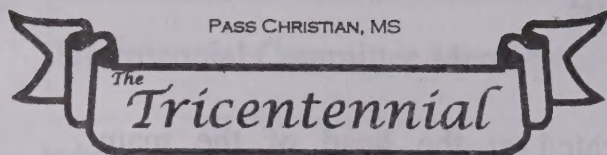
During the mid-70s and early 80s, weekend evenings at the Golf Club were hopping for the in-crowd from the surrounding area. Every month, a 19th-Hole party was organized and hosted by one or two of the local resident families. These gala affairs were festive and went on for hours on end as nurtured by food, drink, and music.

In the mid-eighties, the Women's Club was instigated by the former Mrs. John Wilson and Ellie D'Antoni.

The annual Timber Ridge Mardi Gras parade heralded its first "floats" in 1995, as introduced by Dot Buccola and Doris Duchert.

The very merry Christmas boat parade was started by the Pass Christian Isles folks in 1995. The stream of lighted boats makes a fairyland on water.

Next year, in 1999, the "*Italian Opening*", which was inaugurated by Shirley and Frank Cefalu, will celebrate its 25th anniversary.



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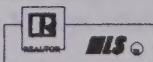


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